Railway Projects in Maharashtra

†515. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the demands of the public at large of Maharashtra, in particular of Latur, for various rail projects;

(b) how many of them have been approved/sanctioned/implemented and completed so far;

(c) what are the reasons for non-approved/non-sanctioned and non-implemented rail projects, giving the project wise details; and

(d) which railway projects are pending and the new ones likely to be included in the ensuing (next) Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Proposals for rail projects are not formulated state-wise. Sanction and Allocation of funds to Railway Projects is a need based exercise where the relative priority of the project depending upon its physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability, is the guiding factor. A number of Railway projects span across more than one State. Therefore, State/Regional boundaries are not a criterion for deciding Railway investments and for the same reason state-wise details of Railway Projects are not maintained. However, with specific reference to Latur, the following are the demands of the public of the region:—

1. Earlier commissioning of Latur—Latur road new broad gauge line.

2. Gauge-conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi-Miraj section.

Both the works have been approved and sanctioned and are being executed in a phased manner.

Survey of Agartala-Sabroom Sector by Railways

516. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of Railways had announced in the Railway Budget 1998-99 for taking up the survey work of Agartala-Sabroom Sector;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) by when the survey work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.